Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

Message Text

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ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY EA/K:EHURWITZ:CED
APPROVED BY EA:AWHUMMEL, JR.
P - MR. HABIB
S/S -O:R. GAMBLE
----------160115Z 057932 /63
P 160108Z JAN 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY SEOUL PRIORITY
INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 010146

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, US, KS

SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR HAHM MEETING WITH UNDER SECRETARY HABIB

1. AMBASSADOR HAHM MET AT HIS REQUEST WITH UNDER SECRETARY HABIB ON JANUARY 14 TO DISCUSS PRESS REPORTS CITING PRESIDENT-ELECT CARTER'S INTENTIONS WITH REGARD TO ROK. ASSISTANT SECRETARY-DESIGNATE HOLBROOKE PARTICIPATED IN THE MEETING.

2. HAHM ASKED FOR ANY INFORMATION HABIB COULD GIVE HIM ABOUT A JANUARY 14 WASHINGTON POST ARTICLE WHICH REPORTED ON A MEETING THE PRESIDENT-ELECT HAD ON WEDNESDAY WITH VARIOUS MEMBERS OF CONGRESS.

3. HABIB AND HOLBROOKE EXPLAINED THAT THE CONGRESSIONAL
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SESSION HAD INVOLVED OFF THE RECORD FREE EXCHANGES ON MANY ISSUES. WE ARE NOT AWARE OF WHAT MIGHT OR MIGHT NOT HAVE BEEN SAID BY ANY OF THE CONGRESSIONAL PARTICIPANTS. HABIB NOTED THAT INSTEAD OF RELYING ON PRESS ACCOUNTS, HAHM SHOULD CONCENTRATE ON WHAT THE NEW ADMINISTRATION HAS SAID PUBLICLY ABOUT THE TROOP ISSUE. GOVERNOR CARTER AND MR. VANCE HAVE REITERATED THAT ANY

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GROUND FORCE WITHDRAWALS WOULD BE CARRIED OUT SLOWLY, CAUTIOUSLY, AND METHODICALLY AND WITH PRIOR CONSULTATION WITH KOREA AND JAPAN. THIS ISSUE WILL BE STUDIED CAREFULLY OVER THE NEXT MONTHS, AND WHEN THERE ARE PROPOSALS TO MAKE, THEY WILL BE DISCUSSED WITH THE ROK. HAHM COULD BE REASSURED THAT NOTHING WOULD BE DONE ABRUPTLY AND THAT THERE WOULD BE NO SURPRISES.

4. HOLBROOKE SAID HE COULD ASSURE HAHM THAT GOVERNOR CARTER IS FULLY AWARE THAT WE MUST MAKE NO MOVE WHICH WOULD REDUCE THE ROK'S ABILITY TO DEFEND ITSELF. HE NOTED THAT MANY OF THE PRESS ACCOUNTS OF THE PRESIDENT-ELECT'S VIEWS ON KOREA DO NOT ADEQUATELY REFLECT HIS CONCERN ON THIS SCORE.

5. ALLUDING TO THE HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUE, HOLBROOKE SAID GOVERNOR CARTER DOES NOT BELIEVE IT IS THE BUSINESS OF THE U.S. TO TELL OTHER GOVERNMENTS HOW TO ORGANIZE THEMSELVES. IT IS IMPORTANT TO US, HOWEVER, HOW OTHER GOVERNMENTS TREAT THEIR CITIZENS, AND THIS FACTOR WOULD BE ONE OF THE ELEMENTS AFFECTING OUR RELATIONSHIPS WITH OTHER COUNTRIES.

6. HAHM ASKED ABOUT THE POST ARTICLE'S ASSERTION THAT AT GOV. CARTER'S MEETING WITH THE CONGRESSMEN, A MEMBER OF THE NEW ADMINISTRATION HAD PROPOSED U.S. CONTACTS WITH NORTH KOREA AS PART OF THE TROOP WITHDRAWAL PROCESS. HABIB SAID HE HAD NO KNOWLEDGE OF WHAT THE ARTICLE MIGHT HAVE BEEN REFERRING TO.
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7. IN THE COURSE OF THE CONVERSATION, HAHM RAISED THE QUESTION OF FISHING QUOTAS, URGING THAT LIBERAL CONSIDERATION BE GIVEN TO KOREA IN LIGHT OF ITS NEEDS AND OF THE FACT THAT IT DID NOT HAVE A LONG HISTORY OF DEPLETING FISH RESOURCES WITHIN THE 200-MILE LIMIT. HABIB SAID WE WOULD, OF COURSE, TAKE NOTE OF HAHM'S REQUEST, BUT AS HE WAS AWARE, THE QUOTA ISSUE WAS A COMPLEX ONE INVOLVING A NUMBER OF COUNTRIES AND U.S. INTERNAL INTERESTS.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 16-Jan-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE010146
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: EHURWITZ:CED
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770016-0403
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions:
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Litigation History:
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Office: ORIGIN SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
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Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3585960
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: AMBASSADOR HAHM MEETING WITH UNDER SECRETARY HABIB
TAGS: PFOR, US, KS, (CARTER, JIMMY), (HAHM PYONG-CHOON), (HABIB, PHILIP)
To: SEOUL TOKYO
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/57def2d8-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
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Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009